(d) whether Government propose to change the present policy of appointment of State Selection Boards and the distribution system for the allotment of petroleum outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Complaints have been received against the functioning of some of the Oil Selection Boards. Tenues of Chairman and Members of 7 Oil Selection Boards including those of Haryana and Punjab have been terminated on 2.3.1994.

(d) No, Sir.

Assurance for Zero flaring of gas

2927. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of plans for achieving 'zero gas flaring' and what is the present position;

(b) what is the value of gas flared annually in the country at today's international prices at which India is buying gas inclusive of transport and handling at ports; etc.;

(c) what is the estimated value of natural gas contracted by India for imports for the coming year and the allocations therefor in Forex; and

(d) by when we are going to achieve the 'zero flaring' of natural gas at Bombay High at the present trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) A number of schemes designed to reduce gas flaring are being implemented by ONGC and OIL. These include:

(i) augmentation of gas collection, compression, transportation and treatment at various places; and

(ii) underground gas storage for future use.

(b) India is not importing natural gas at present. At domestic prices, the value of gas flared between April '93 to January '94 is estimated at Rs. 178.67 crores.

(c) There are no contracts as yet for the import natural gas.

(d) The Gas Flaring Reduction Project for Western offshore fields is expected to be completed in 1996.

Proposal to increase prices of HSD and Kerosene

2928. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmsnt propose to increase the prices of High-speed Diesel and Kerosene; if so, the details thereof;

(b) how much subsidy Government is giving on High-speed Diesel and Kerosene separately in a financial year;

(c) how long Government propose to continue with the present subsidy for the above two items;

(d) whether Government propose to import, sale and distribute these products to private sector; and

(e) if so, what are the details thersof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) The subsidy for the year 1992 93 has been as under:

	Rs./Crores
SKO	3304
HSD	120

(c) Presently, there is no proposal to discontinue it.

(d) and (e) A scheme of parallel marketing s already available for import and sale of kerosene. There is no such scheme for HSD.

Clearance of foreign investment proposals

2929. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign investment proposals which have so far been cleared by Government of India after approval by the finance Empowered Committee concernng his Ministry;

(b) what is the component of foreign direct investment out of the total value envisaged in each project, period involved, effective transfer technology besides setting up the R & D facility; and

(c) whether any proposal as a Joint venture concerning supply of gas through a pipe network to domestic, industrial, commercial transportation consumers has been finalised, if so, the details thereof and the cities likely to be covered in the country,

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Surevey on Southern Gas Grid

2930. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey so far on Southern gas grid, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether any project report thereof has been made so far;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether the project has been approved by the Planning Commission, if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) what will be the total cost of the project; and

(f) by when the project is expected to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No route surveys have been conducted.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The concept of laying a gas pipeline from a suitable point on the Western Coast to the Southern region has been approved in principle. An Expert Group is studying the parameters of a domestic pipeline network for the distribution of gas proposed to be imported from the Middle East. The Southern Gas Grid will be projectised after this study is completed.

Gas and Oil production in Cauvery Basin

2931. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how much gas and oil have been produced from Cauvery basin, year-wise and location-wise as on date;

(b) the quantity of gas and oil that was struck at Kuthanallur at Cauvery basin;

(c) when did the commercial production begin at Kuthanallur;

(d) what is the present capacity of refinery at Nagapattinam;